

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed on August 24, 2004 by the United States Patent and Trademark Office allowed claims 5-14 and rejected claims 1-4 and 15-16. Applicants believe that no fee is required by this response. If for some reason this is not the case, however, please consider this as a request for any extension of time and/or as authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2117 for any fee (including fees for additional claims and/or extensions of time) that may be required to prevent abandonment of this application.

Claims 1-16 remain in this application. The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 5-14 are directed to allowable subject matter. Independent claims 1 and 15 and dependent claim 16 have been amended and claims 1-16 remain pending in this application. No new matter has been added. Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

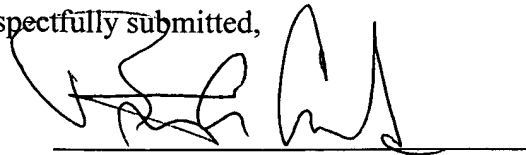
Applicant has added a drawing (FIG. 7) to show the features specified in claim 14, as requested by the Examiner. In the specification, paragraph 0021 has been amended to correct a typographical duplication of a sentence, and paragraph 0032 has been amended to include a description of FIG. 7. No new matter is added by this Response.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Without consenting to the rejection, Applicant has amended claim 1 as requested by the Examiner. Claims 2-4 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore inherit the benefit of the included steps. The Office Action also rejects claims 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reintjes et al. (USPN 5,275,168) in view of Levenson (USPN 6,496,634). Applicant submits that amended claim 15 as now pending includes language similar to that allowed in claim 5, and that claim 16 is dependent on claim 15. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, the Examiner is earnestly invited to contact the undersigned at (480) 385-5060 or bcarlson@ifllaw.com.

Dated

8/30/2004

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheet is a new FIG. 7. This drawing shows an embodiment of a receiver and signal processor/detector having a plurality of hollow core fibers as specified in claim 14, and as requested by the Examiner. This embodiment was referred to in the original paragraph 0032 of the Specification, and is now described with reference to FIG. 7 in the amended paragraph 0032. No new matter has been entered.

Attachment: FIG.7